

23 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Andy Marshall, Net Assessment Group,
National Security Council, on Legislation Affecting CIA

1. Messrs. Colby, Houston, Warner, [] met with Andy Marshall to review legislative initiatives on the Hill affecting CIA. The meeting was requested by Marshall.

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2. Mr. Colby reviewed the principal areas of congressional concern explaining that:

a. Concern about improper domestic activities by CIA could be met easily by a simple amendment to the National Security Act of 1947 (e. g. , insertion of the word "foreign" in section 102(d)-- we do not want to get involved in domestic activities unrelated to our foreign intelligence responsibilities and no harm would result in making our statute explicit on this point (Marshall agreed).

b. The solution to concern over CIA covert action is a little more tricky since even some of our friends on the Hill worry about this aspect of our business, but the problem may be satisfactorily resolved by either inserting a reporting requirement in the Act or preferably through legislative history reflecting that a complete and full accounting of covert action has been and will continue to be given to our committees.

c. Concern over the secrecy of the Agency and the intelligence community's budget hopefully can be resolved by limited disclosures of the totals--we have pretty much deferred to the prudence and good judgment of congressional leadership while making the point that publication of even total figures over a prolonged period would be providing information on program emphasis helpful to the opposition and harmful to us. (Marshall appeared to agree that the publication, on a one-time basis or so, of the total National Intelligence Program would not be harmful.)

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[REDACTED]

d. Concern over use of the Agency to circumvent the will of Congress was made in the discussion which followed.

3. Mr. Colby emphasized:

a. that our friends on the Hill were fully seized with the problem;

b. that we were optimistic that our continued working with them on an informal, low-profile basis was our best bet for forestalling irresponsible legislation;

c. that legislation resulting from their efforts probably would have little if any impact on the way we operate presently;

d. that he wanted to be sure that Timmons and others in the White House are informed of our efforts and to be assured that what we are doing is consistent with the Administration's thinking; 25X1
and

[REDACTED]

4. After Mr. Colby left:

a. Specific legislative proposals were reviewed which illustrated Mr. Colby's earlier points (Marshall was given a listing of the bills).

b. In response to his question, Marshall was advised that there was general support in the Congress for most of our overseas functions and duties, but that this was not so with domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence (e. g., McClellan's position on the Kennedy/Holtzman amendment to the Law Enforcement Administration Authority).

[REDACTED]

c. In response to Marshall's question, Houston said we had not yet arrived at completely satisfactory statutory language and that Stennis plans to prepare for the hearings in September and probably hold them after the first of the year.

d. Houston emphasized the importance Stennis attaches to letting him (Stennis) handle the problem and keeping a tight hold-down on his plans and dealings with us.

e. [] said we were developing a paper on the subject for Mr. Colby for the White House to assure that our thinking was consistent with the Administration's.

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Associate Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject

1 - Mr. Colby

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